

“STRENGTH FROM ABOVE”

Psalm 138:1-8

(How God Revives Us In The Midst Of Battle)

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me”

— INTRODUCTION —

(In Psalm 137, David is in need of Divine intervention)

- In 137:1, David is weeping while in Babylon.
- In 137:2, David has hung his harp on the willow tree.
- In 137:3, David is mocked by his persecutors.
- In 137:4, David refused to sing for the Babylonian gods.

The Problem ?

- The people of God were in exile in a strange land.
- The people could not sing because of heavy hearts.
- The people remembered former days of joy in Zion.
- The people remembered how “it used to be.”

Now It's Time For Change

- The people of God needed to be lifted and made strong.
- The people of God needed to experience revival in the valley.
- The people of God needed to hear a word from God.

Questions With Answers

- #1. How does the change from Psalm 137 to 138 take place?
- #2. What is it that takes us from weeping to singing?
- #3. How does God revive “in the midst” of tough seasons?
- #4. What spiritual disciplines enable God to make us strong on the battlefield?

3 Absolutes That Strong Believers Know

I. Strong Believers Know How To WORSHIP. (v. 1, 2)

“I will praise thee with my whole heart; before the gods will sing praise unto thee.” (v. 1)

“I will worship toward thy holy temple” (v. 2)

Praise Characteristics That Glorify God

- #1. Worship must be *fervent in devotion*.
“I will praise thee with my whole heart” (v. 1) means:
 - To praise without reservation.

- To praise based upon the worthiness of the one worshipped.
- To praise regardless of my feelings and circumstances.

#2. Worship must be *fearless in disposition*.

“Before the gods will I sing praise unto thee (v. 1) means:

- David refuses to allow the false gods of neighboring nations to stop his worship.
- David refuses to allow the idols of the Canaanites to silence his song.
- David refuses to accommodate the heathen by putting his praise on hold.

#3. Worship must be *focused in direction*.

“I will worship toward ... and praise thy name” (v. 2) means:

- The temple was the place of God’s presence.
- The temple was the place of God’s name.
- The temple was the place where the Ark of Covenant abode.
- “And praise thy name” means that worship must be focused on Jesus to lead us into His presence.

#4. Worship must be *free from defilement*.

“I will worship toward thy holy temple (v. 2) means:

- I must approach the Lord in a holy manner;
- I must approach the Lord with a pure heart;
- I must approach the Lord with no pretending;
Because any guile will spoil my praise, any hypocrisy will be offensive to God, and any insincere praise will fall on deaf ears.

II. Strong Believers Know How To *PRAY*. (v. 3-7)

“In the day when I cried, thou answeredst me, and strengthened me with strength in my soul.” (v. 3)

Question: What was David’s condition?

Answer: He was weak, worried and wounded.

Question: How did David respond (not react) to his surroundings?

Answer: David made earnest prayer unto the Lord.

- He made his request unto God.
- He placed his burden with the Lord.
- He cast his cares upon God.
- He called upon God in the day of trouble.

Question: What happens when we really pray God’s way?

Answer: “Thou answered me and strengthened me with strength in my soul” (v. 3) which means:

- Divine transactions take place in prayer.
- Strength is given to bear burden in prayer.
- Courage is imparted in the place of prayer.
- Fainting hearts become strong in prayer.

Don't Believe Satan's Lie! That your outside surroundings dictate your inside condition.

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me” (v. 7) which means:

- God is not limited by what limits you!
- Regardless of your location, pain, or surroundings, you can have an audience with God.
- Personal revival can be experienced even in the midst of trouble, isolation and less than perfect conditions.

“Thou wilt revive me” means:

- God will give you new life and pour in fresh water.
- God will sustain me regardless of what goes on around me and touches my life.
- God will work in us and through us through the ministry of prayer.

III. Strong Believers Know How To BELIEVE. (v. 8)

“The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me.” (v. 8)

Fact: David can quit fretting about the captivity in Babylon.

Fact: David can cease complaining about his plans being deferred.

Fact: David can stop worrying over his expectations being put on hold. (Why?)

Because

“The Lord Will Perfect” or

1. Your interests are in safe keeping with God !
2. God's plan for you will be completed !
3. Temporary setbacks need not defeat you !
4. God will never abandon the intentions He initiates !
5. You can rest easy knowing the truth that sets us free from unbelief:
 - My times are in His hand. (Psalm 31:15)
 - He makes all things beautiful in His time. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
 - To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

AMEN !

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